WCCC Virtual Committee Meeting 3rd July Minutes

Present: Judith Aldridge (JA), Carole Oliver (CO), Kevern Oliver (KO), Sarah Donaldson (SD), Phil Crowther (PC), Michael Brierley (MB), Anne Renshaw (ARn), Eileen Roberts (ER), Rebecca Jones (RJ), Richard Holroyd (RH), Stephen Shellard (SS), Helen Randall (HR)

minute		Action
1	Welcome and apologies Apologies: Sue Standford (SSt), Robin Walker (RW), Mark Wilson (MW)	
2	Minutes of meeting on 22/05/21 and Matters Arising Minutes unanimously agreed with MD corrected to MB in item 7. Matters arising dealt with in main agenda.	ко
3	Financial Report .Balance in Cathedral bank account £12794.53 This balance has been calculated by the Treasurer as no confirmation has been received from the Cathedral's Finance Department. This has been requested.	RJ, CO
4	 Membership KO summarised the discussions at the last meeting (22/05/21) concerning the size, make-up and commitment of members. SS responded to the points raised. He agreed that the 2019/20 "peak" of 43 members was too high but that 35/6 was workable and necessary in order to provide a pool of members to cover absences. Attendance requirements are 70% of rehearsals but the musical need to ensure a proper balance meant that sometimes there was a need to allow members, with poor attendance records, to sing. SS understood members were irritated by this arrangement but he had no alternative. SS reported that KO and he often struggled to get sufficient members to commit to services and performances. Deps, which cost, sometimes are needed. In the subsequent discussion the following points arose and ways ahead agreed. The current make up of the choir is about right but in the longer term it should be 10 Sop, 10 alto, 6 tenor, 6 bass. There is a particular need to recruit tenors and basses and a suitable campaign should set up in the autumn term. the aim will be to have a pool of auditioned singers in waiting. Accurate attendance records are in place, along with a Doddle-based system to scheduling and commitment. Procedures are in place to deal with attendance issue (ToR Appendix 2). The autumn restart is an obvious opportunity for the WCCC to refocus and regroup after the difficulties of the last 15 months. Agreement that SS's proposal that there should be an initial period of getting back together with healing regeneration. What should then follow would be the outcome of shared discussions with members about commitment, attendance the need for auditions etc. KO will invite the would-be bass, alto and alto tenor, to come to rehearsals on 09/09/21. 	SS, KO SS KO KO, All

5	Return to Singing RJ's wedding on 14/08/21 will be at 1400 n the Quire. Choir rehearsal will be at 1200 on day and at 1930 on 05/08/21 and 12/08/21 KO waiting to hear if the Garth can be used for open air rehearsals on 08/07/21 and 15/07/21. KO/SS asking SH for use of College Hall on22/07/21. There was a general feeling that if social distancing continues the Song School may not be large enough for rehearsals. KO/SS/ER will "explore" how to make best use of space.	KO/SS SS/KO/ER
6	 21/22 Schedule The working assumption is that rehearsal arrangements will be back to normal for the start of the autumn term. i.e. 1930 to 2130 in the Song School with singing for services back in the Quire. Rehearsals will start on 02/09/21 in time for the Friends' Evensong on 04/09/21. The AGM will be on 05/10/21. This will give sensible preparation time between then and the start of term. Cathedral dates for the spring term are 19/03/22 evensong 03/04/22 eucharist and evensong 11/04/22 compline It is not possible to increase the number of services allocated to the WCCC because of the need to include the new Cathedral choirs in the singing of the liturgy. KO will produce an up dated 21/22 chart for distribution to members. n.b. the Youth Choir will not have regular Cathedral commitments but will sing occasional services and concerts. 	ко
7	Looking to the Future Patronage Discussion postponed to later meeting	KO, ARn
8	The Committee congratulated Michael Brierley on his new appointment at Rippon College Cuddesdon and wished him well. It thanked him for his enthusiastic guidance and support, particularly over the last 15 months of Covid dominated activities and for the way in which he helped the WCCC's transition into its new place as part of the Cathedral's music department. Michael, in response thanked the Committee for its good wishes and in turn wished the WCCC well.	
9	Date of next meeting 11/08/21 at 1930 – Zoom	ко